

# Our Ottawa Letter

Hard Fight in the East—The Tribunals—C.N.R. Argument.

(By The Guide's Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, Nov. 23.—Interest at the capital this week has centred in the election campaign, which, since nomination day on Monday last, has got off to a good start. Sir Robert Borden and several of his colleagues have been touring western Ontario. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has remained in the capital, but will make his first speech in Ontario here on Tuesday next, after which he expects to leave for Winnipeg. Hon. Frank Carvell and Hon. A. K. Maclean have made a flying trip up from the Maritime provinces and have returned. They will probably confine their efforts to the Atlantic coast provinces, where, according to reports reaching the capital, an old time fight very much on party lines is in progress. The expectation entertained until a few days before nominations, that the parties in Nova Scotia would be able to get together and practically avoid a contest, has not materialized. The election of Hon. W. S. Fielding to his old seat of Queens-Shelburn by acclamation appears to be about all the get-together effort the Nova Scotians were able to accomplish. The down east ministers when here frankly declared that the fight in the Maritime provinces is a warm one. They were hopeful that the Unionists would carry the day by a considerable margin. Liberals, on the other hand, assert with seeming confidence, that they will have a majority of the 31 members sent to parliament by New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

In Quebec the situation is much as was expected. Up to date Sir Wilfrid Laurier's followers, to the number of 13, have been elected by acclamation, and there are a few seats which are not being contested by Unionist candidates. The government claims that 10 Unionists will win out in the French Canadian province. The Liberals assert to the contrary that five Unionists at most will be elected, and perhaps not more than three. Some old campaigners would not be surprised to see the election night score stand at 58 liberals to 7 unionists, a Laurier majority of 51.

## The Ontario Situation

There are 82 seats to be fought for in Ontario. Leaving the Maritime provinces out of consideration for the moment and giving Laurier 58 seats in Quebec, the Ontario Unionists will have to elect 67 Unionists to overcome the Liberal majority in Quebec. Should the opposition candidates carry 20 Ontario seats, it is conceivable, with the Maritime provinces included in the calculation, that Eastern Canada may break fairly even between the opposing forces. In the Unionist camp it is frankly admitted that much dependence is being placed upon the west, where it is hoped three Unionists will be elected to one oppositionist, thereby giving the government a workable majority. But speculation on probable election results is often more fascinating than reliable, and more than one thing might occur to upset calculations. The Liberals might do worse than they expect in Quebec, which would be bad for them, or the Unionists might do a little better or worse than they count on in Ontario. One thing can be truthfully said at present, so far as the East is concerned, and that is that neither the one side or the other appears to be over confident. This is chiefly due to the political cross-currents arising out of Union and uncertainty as to the popularity, or otherwise, of the Military Service Act.

Those upon whose shoulders has fallen the difficult task of administering the Military Service Act are having lots of worry these days. Most of their troubles are doubtless due to the uneven work of the members of the 1,300 local tribunals who throughout the Dominion are deciding who shall, and who shall not, go to the front. It would be impossible to expect a uniform point of view from such a large number of people, and such does not prevail, with the result that exemptions are being granted in some districts and provinces

which would not be granted in others. Tribunals in some cases have been too zealous in providing men for the firing line to the detriment of essential industries at home, while other tribunals have failed to draft young men who have no reasonable excuse for remaining at home.

## The Uneven Work of Tribunals

One of the chief difficulties that has cropped up on account of the uneven work of the tribunals has been in regard to agriculture. In some districts, where the applications of unmarried farmers under 34 years of age and the sons of farmers have been heard, the members of the tribunals have exercised reasonable discretion and have not drafted men who should remain on the soil. In other districts quite the reverse has been the case, and decisions have been made which directly conflict with the national need of increased production. Farmers in some cases have been told to sell out and report for duty in two or three months. Many others have been granted temporary exemption until the spring months. In other words they will be compelled to don the khaki just when the rush of work commences on the farm at seeding time. Eastern newspapers are being flooded with letters of protest, many of the writers making reference to the speech made

before the livestock gathering at Ottawa by Hon. T. A. Cresser, when he expressed the view that there should be no conscription of labor necessary to production. In one case a woman, in writing to the Toronto News, states that her husband is over 70 years of age, and that their only boy has been ordered to report for duty with the result that the farm of 100 acres will lie idle next year.

The situation was dealt with this week by Sir Robert Borden, who, in a lengthy statement issued to the press, explained how persons who think their applications have not been properly dealt with can lodge an appeal with the military registrar, which will be heard later on. The prime minister also stated that the militia department would appeal from the decisions of the tribunals in all cases treated with undue leniency.

A not unexpected development is the charge made by Ontario newspapers that the tribunals in Quebec province are exercising such undue leniency, with the result that but very few men will be provided for the firing line. In reply to this accusation, a Montreal judge today said that while it was true a large number of exemptions had been granted, they were in a majority of cases only temporary.

## The C.N.R. Agreement

The formal announcement was made this week of the terms of the agreement between the government and the C.N.R. in regard to the arbitration proceedings to settle the value of the 600,000 shares of C.N.R. stock to be acquired by the government. It veri-

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ified what had become pretty generally known as to the fixing of a limitation of \$10,000,000 on the amount to be paid by the government for the common shares. Sir William Meredith, chief justice of Ontario, will represent the government at the arbitration proceedings, and it is understood that Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., will represent the C.N.R. By the terms of the agreement.

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**Moscow Pony Coat**—A new model this season made from one full furred skin, black in color. The skins are nicely dressed, making the coat light in weight. The collar is of black Wolf, square shape, also large cuffs to match. Lining of fancy brocade poplin. 45 inches in length. All sizes at **\$90**

**Tweed Motor Coat**—Ladies' handsome motor coat made from imported tweed cloth. Lined to the hips with full furred Muskrat, and faced with satin. This attractive model is light in weight, has deep Alaska Sable collar and cuffs, large patch pockets, straight lines and belted all around. 45 inches in length. Priced at **\$100**

### MEN'S FUR COATS

**Men's Raccoon Coat, 52 inches long**—Made from full furred dark skins especially selected, large shawl collar, slash pockets. Coat lined with best quality quilted farmers' satin. This is a superior garment and extra special value at **\$200**

**Men's Plucked Beaver Coat**—Made from carefully selected northern Beaver skins. Has extra large shawl collar, lining of the best brown satin, finished with outside and inside pockets. Coat is 50 inches in length, all sizes, and extra good value at **\$300**

**Men's Fur-Lined Coat**—Oxford grey Melton cloth, lined with full furred Canadian Muskrat. Has a dark natural large shawl collar of Otter, 50 inches in length. Materials used in construction being the very best. Selling price **\$100**

### LADIES' FUR SETS

**Alaska Sable Sets**—One of the most durable of all furs. Stole is made in wide shape effect, showing three distinct stripes on each side and finished with tails of the same fur. Muff comes in large pillow or melon styles. Both made from finest quality eastern skins. Set **\$125**

**Black Wolf Sets**—Stole in cape effect; fits snugly to the neck and around shoulders; fastened with head in front and muff in pillow or round style, trimmed with natural head, tail and paws; handsomely lined with black crepe de chene. This is a beautiful silky fur and closely resembles Black Fox. Set complete for **\$50**

**Natural Mink Sets**—Stole is made from six large skins, is wide on shoulders and extends below to waist in front; finished with natural heads, tails and paws. Muff is pillow style, trimmed to match. These skins are absolutely natural in color. Mink is a fur known to all as among the most reliable of all furs. Set complete for **\$100**

**Natural Raccoon Sets**, includes curved animal scarf with natural trimming and lined with hard wearing grey satin. Muff comes in melon style. These skins are undyed Alaska and give a length of service. Price for set **\$45**

**Natural Wolf Set**—Stole is made in large two-skin effect, is finished with two natural heads, tails and paws. Muff in pillow style, trimmed to match. Hand part is lined with grey velvet. These are made from finest Northern skins. Free for set **\$50**

**Red Fox Sets**—Stole is made in straight natural style, lined half way with fur and finished with pocket inside the lining. Muff in large pillow style with head on one corner and large brush and paws on the opposite side. The skins in these are in the richest shade of red and come from the far Peace River country. Set complete **\$100**

**Men's Australian Coon Coat**—This coat is of a very heavy and dark grey fur, but light in weight with extra large shawl collar, lining of best quality quilted farmers' satin. The skins in this coat are especially well dressed, making the coat very comfortable to wear. Extra low priced at **\$75**

**Men's Black Cloth Chambray-Lined Overcoat**—Made from good quality Beaver cloth. Best quilted satin lining, interlined with chambray to the bottom. Large genuine Otter shawl collar, 50 inches in length. A very serviceable and good appearing coat for **\$55**

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